Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Program To Encourage Climate Education in Maine Public Schools

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.
Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Presented by Representative BLUME of York.
Sec. 1. Commissioner of Education to establish pilot program to provide professional development grants for climate education. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Education, referred to in this resolve as "the commissioner," shall establish the Climate Education Professional Development Pilot Program, referred to in this resolve as "the pilot program," to provide grants for professional development for educators on climate science and to support the preparation of courses on interdisciplinary climate education for a period of 3 years.

Sec. 2. Pilot program; administration. Resolved: That the commissioner shall administer the pilot program to assist school districts in partnering with nonprofit community-based organizations to create and implement plans to provide teacher training in next generation science standards and interdisciplinary climate education.

Sec. 3. Grant awards. Resolved: That grant awards under the pilot program must be prioritized for schools and communities historically underserved by climate science education. These schools and communities may include, but are not limited to, tribal nations, including tribal schools, migrant students, schools with high populations of students who receive free and reduced-price lunches, rural and remote schools, students in alternative learning education environments, students of color, English language learner students and students receiving special education services. When selecting and prioritizing grant recipients, the commissioner may consider how an applicant has successfully demonstrated student progress, achievement and understanding with respect to climate science standards through the provision of professional development. The commissioner shall establish standards and an application process for the professional development grants in accordance with the priorities in this section.

Sec. 4. Fund established. Resolved: That the Climate Education Professional Development Pilot Program Fund is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing fund within the Department of Education for the purpose of receiving funds from the State and other sources for the purposes of this resolve. The department shall use the funds received to administer the pilot program and to award grants to support the purposes described in this resolve. At the end of the pilot program or upon distribution of all the funds, the fund is dissolved.

Sec. 5. Transfer. Resolved: That, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer $3,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Climate Education Professional Development Pilot Program Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Education no later than September 1, 2022 to support the pilot program.

Sec. 6. Annual reports. Resolved: That a recipient of a grant under the pilot program shall report to the Department of Education annually for the duration of the grant.

Sec. 7. Report to Legislature. Resolved: That, no later than January 1, 2025, the commissioner shall submit a report regarding the pilot program and make recommendations, including whether the pilot program should continue as a pilot program, be modified or become a permanent program, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs. The joint standing committee may report out legislation on the subject matter of the report to the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.
Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Climate Education Professional Development Pilot Program Fund N410

Initiative: Allocates one-time funds for grants to school districts to partner with nonprofit community-based organizations to create and implement plans to provide teacher training in next generation science standards and interdisciplinary climate education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</th>
<th>2021-22</th>
<th>2022-23</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Other</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$2,905,981</td>
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OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

$0 $2,905,981

Climate Education Professional Development Pilot Program Fund N410

Initiative: Allocates funds for one limited-period Regional Education Representative position and related All Other to administer the Climate Education Professional Development Pilot Program effective September 1, 2022. This position ends June 30, 2025.

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<tr>
<th>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</th>
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<th>2022-23</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Other</td>
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OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

$0 $94,019

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS

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<tr>
<th>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</th>
<th>2021-22</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other Special Revenue Funds</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
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DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS

$0 $3,000,000

SUMMARY

This resolve establishes the Climate Education Professional Development Pilot Program as a 3-year pilot program within the Department of Education to provide grants for professional development for educators on climate science and to support the preparation of courses on interdisciplinary climate education and provides $3,000,000 in one-time funds for grants to school districts to partner with nonprofit community-based organizations to create and implement plans to provide teacher training in next generation science standards and interdisciplinary climate education.